

CHARACTER TYPES

Analyzing Characters in a story.

CHARACTER TRAITS

- The physical and personality traits of a character.
 - Physical Appearance
 - Thoughts
 - Actions
 - Words/Dialogue
 - Reaction of other characters
- Example: What are some of Eric's character traits?

PROTAGONIST

- Central character of the story
- Has to overcome the conflict



ANTAGONIST

- The opposition to the protagonist
 - Part of the conflict



DYNAMIC

- A character who changes over the time
- Usually learns something or grows in some way



STATIC

- Never changes



ROUND

- Complex personality
- Many character traits
 - Flawed



FLAT

- One character or personality trait



STOCK

- Characters that fit a well-known stereotype



FOIL

- A character that is the opposite of another character
 - They have contrasting traits



ARCHETYPE

- Well-known character types that appear over and over again in literature across time and culture.
 - Hero
 - Mother Figure
 - Mentor
 - Outcast
 - Damsel in Distress
 - The Innocent
 - The “Regular” Guy

POINT OF VIEW

Who's telling the story?

FIRST PERSON

- A character in the story
 - Involved in the action
 - Can be unreliable
- We tend to go along with what they observe
- Uses “I, Me, My, Us, We, Our, Myself, Ourselves”

THIRD PERSON

- Outside of the story
 - Not a character
- Less likely to be unreliable
- Sees more of the bigger picture
- Uses “He, She, Her, Him, They, Them, Their, Themselves, Himself, Herself”

THIRD PERSON LIMITED

- Sticks with one or a few characters
- Cannot see all, but sees more than a first person narrator.
- Can be a little unreliable, since we don't get the entire picture.

THIRD PERSON OMNISCIENT

- Sees all characters
 - Few surprises
- Provides the entire picture